



PRESS RELEASE

**Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Los Angeles Field Office
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Orange County Business Owner Sentenced to Federal Prison for Federal Tax and Structuring Violations

Los Angeles – The owner and president of a general contracting business in Orange County was sentenced today to 18 months in federal prison for cashing customer checks totaling approximately \$2 million and failing to report the receipt of these payments on his income tax returns.

Jeremy Scott Levine, 42, of Newport Beach—owner and president of JSL Construction and Landscaping (“JSL”), a general contracting business in Newport Beach—was sentenced this afternoon by United States District Judge Margaret M. Morrow, who also ordered Levine to pay restitution of \$300,000 to the Internal Revenue Service, and a fine of \$80,000 to the United States government.

Levine pleaded guilty in June of 2013 to one count of subscribing to a false tax return for the 2010 tax year and one count of structuring a cash transaction.

According to the plea agreement, for the 2006 through 2010 tax years, Levine failed to report all of the business receipts of JSL on the individual and corporate income tax returns filed by Levine by cashing checks received from customers in payment for remodeling, construction, and landscape services provided by JSL.

Beginning in 2006, Levine directed numerous JSL customers to pay for some of the services provided by JSL by writing checks payable to Levine, individually, rather than writing a check payable to JSL. During the years 2006 through 2010, Levine cashed JSL customer checks, totaling approximately \$2 million, and received currency in exchange for the checks.

For the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, Levine failed to report income in the amounts of \$293,977, \$451,550, \$336,550, and \$416,830, respectively. Levine's failure to report all of his income on the tax returns he filed for the years 2006 through 2010 resulted in a tax due and owing to the government of approximately \$300,000.

In addition to subscribing to a false income tax return, Levine pleaded guilty to cashing checks of less than \$10,000 to evade federal reporting requirements. Levine admitted that in June of 2010, he cashed two JSL customer checks in the amounts of \$9,500 and \$7,325 at two different bank branches, and on the following day he cashed a JSL customer check in the amount of \$9,500. The transactions were purposely structured to evade the federal reporting requirements requiring a financial institution to report cash transactions in an amount that exceeds \$10,000.

Levine will begin serving his prison sentence on July 14, 2014.

The investigation and prosecution of Levine was conducted by IRS-Criminal Investigation's Los Angeles Field Office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

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